

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 SCCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 049376

R 231337Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5647

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, XF

SUBJECT: PLO-FMG CONFRONTATION SURFACES

REF: LAGOS 7329

SUMMARY: FMG BECOMING INCREASINGLY IRRITATED AT
ACTIVITIES OF PLO REP IN LAGOS AND REPORTEDLY IS
ATTEMPTING FORCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM NIGERIA. END SUMMARY

1. SUBSEQUENT TO AUGUST 12 RECEPTION HONORING PLO
REPRESENTATIVE KHADER MANSOUR (REFTEL), BOTH HE AND
ARAB DIPLOMATS IN LAGOS HAVE STEPPED UP CAMPAIGN FOR
FMG ACQUIESCENCE IN OPENING OF PLO OFFICE HERE. THOUGH
RECEPTION ITSELF WAS REPORTEDLY POORLY ATTENDED, ARAB
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HEADS OF MISSION HAVE SINCE HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH

MANSOUR TO COORDINATE FURTHER PRESSURE ON FMG. ONE RESULT OF MANSOUR'S EFFORTS HAS BEEN STORIES DURING PAST WEEK IN TIMES, SKETCH, AND NEW NIGERIAN REPORTING HIS VIEWS IN SYMPATHETIC VEIN AND LENDING SUPPORT TO IDEA OF PLO OFFICE. SKETCH STORY INCLUDED INTERVIEW IN WHICH MANSOUR EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AT FMG DELAY IN GRANTING DESIRED APPROVAL AND ARGUED THAT ONLY HANDFUL OF "ILL-INFORMED" PERSONS STOOD AGAINST WISHES OF NIGERIAN MAJORITY.

2. IN INTERVIEW REPORTED BY AFP CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 22, MANSOUR ALLEGED THAT HE HAS BEEN "ADVISED" BY NIGERIAN SECURITY POLICE TO LEAVE NIGERIAN WITHIN COMING WEEK BUT THAT HE HAS REFUSED TO DO SO UNTIL HE RECEIVES WRITTEN MEA REPLY TO HIS REQUEST FOR PLO OFFICE IN LAGOS. LONG AFP ACCOUNT INCLUDES MANSOUR CHARGES THAT HE IS BEING "TERRORIZED" BY POLICE AND "ILL-TREATED" BY MEA, AND THAT FMG OFFICIALS ACTING AS RESULT "UNSEEN ISRAELI PRESSURES ON MEA". MANSOUR ADDED THAT HE HAD ADVISED POLICE OFFICERS THAT ANY INSULT TO PLO WILL "COST DEARLY", BUT THAT HIS WORDS HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED AS THREAT.

3. NIGERIAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS TO US AND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS OVER "CONFRONTATION TACTICS" EMPLOYED BY MANSOUR AND BY ARAB DIPLOMATS BACKING HIS EFFORTS. OFFICIALS HAVE REAFFIRMED FMG DESIRE MAINTAIN STANDING POLICY OF NOT PERMITTING LIBERATION GROUPS OPEN OFFICES HERE, PARTICULARLY PLO WHICH IS NOT EVEN AFRICAN MOVEMENT. ACCORDING AUGUST 17 AFP REPORT, FMG HAS APPROACHED EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING MANSOUR DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS BUT DISPATCH GAVE NO INDICATION OF RESULTS. FMG HAS THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM ANY STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE BEYOND MID-JULY CONFIRMATION THAT IT HAD RECEIVED PLO REQUEST TO OPEN OFFICE, SO THAT ENTIRE CONTENT OF PRESS COVERAGE HAS SINCE COME FROM MANSOUR AND ARAB COLLEAGUES.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE FMG ATTEMPTS RESOLVE PLO ISSUE QUIETLY, MANSOUR HAS FORCED QUESTION INTO PUBLIC VIEW WITH EVIDENT HOPE OF WINNING NIGERIAN MUSLIM SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS. HE HAS THUS INTRUDED INTO SENSITIVE AREA OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NIGERIAN DOMESTIC POLICY AS WELL AS USING PRESSURE TACTICS WHICH FMG DEEPLY RESENTS. WE WOULD EXPECT HIS BEHAVIOR REINFORCE FMG DETERMINATION STICK TO ITS GUNS ON PLO OFFICE AND FORCE MANSOUR DEPARTURE IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT IRRITATION AND EMBARRASSMENT HE HAS PROVOKED WILL COLOR FMG VIEW OF ARAB CAUSE FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
STEIGMAN

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